Attorney's Docket No.: 22416-014006 / 25-31-0099

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hugh R. Sharkey et al. Art Unit : 3742 Serial No.: 10/712.006 Examiner: Yun H. Lee Filed : November 14, 2003 Conf. No · 7828 Title

: METHOD FOR TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants request consideration of the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(2)(ii), only copies of foreign patent documents and/or non-patent literature are enclosed. Copies of any listed U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications can be provided upon request.

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. The fee in the amount of \$180 for payment of the late submission fee of §1.17(p) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted.

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